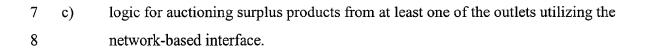
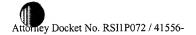
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

| 1 | 1. | A method for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management |
|---|----|---|
| 2 | | framework, comprising: |
| 3 | a) | receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the |
| 4 | | data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets; |
| 5 | b) | making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers utilizing a |
| 6 | | network based interface; and |
| 7 | c) | auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets utilizing the network- |
| 8 | | based interface. |
| | | |
| 1 | 2. | The method of claim 1, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are |
| 2 | | provided access to the network-based interface. |
| | | |
| 1 | 3. | The method of claim 2, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are |
| 2 | | capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface. |
| | | |
| 1 | 4. | The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet. |
| | | |
| 1 | 5. | The method of claim 1, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of |
| 2 | | the outlets closing. |
| | | |
| 1 | 6. | A system for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management |
| 2 | | framework, comprising: |
| 3 | a) | logic for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a |
| 4 | | network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets; |
| 5 | b) | logic for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers |
| 6 | | utilizing a network based interface; and |



- The system of claim 6, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.
- 1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of the outlets closing.
- 1 11. A computer program product for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain 2 management framework, comprising:
- a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain
 utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;
- 5 b) computer code for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers utilizing a network based interface; and
- 7 c) computer code for auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets 8 utilizing the network-based interface.
- 1 12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the outlets, the distributors, 2 and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based 3 interface.



- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the network includes the
- 2 Internet.
- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the auctioning is initiated in
- 2 response to one of the outlets closing.